ROBERT S. PEABODY FOUNDATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGY

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PHILLIPS ACADEMY

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Mr. John M. Kemper
Clerk of the Board of Trustees
Phillips Academy
Andover, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Kemper:

As we look back over the accomplishments of 1951, it is apparent that the project which we undertook as our Northeastern Archaeological Survey is, in a slow and unspectacular way, beginning to amass data which may soon lead to rather more spectacular results.

In 1949, we sent out the first party with the purpose of finding any areas or sites which gave promise of furnishing stratigraphic information as to sequences of cultural remains. There was little likelihood that the survey would result in any immediate show for museum cases, or any very startling information. However, it gave promise of tying archaeological remains of New England and the Maritime Provinces to those of western New England and New York. The first season was productive of only a few promising sites. In 1950, the Survey was concerned with sampling two of those sites--one in Richibucto, New Brunswick, the other, in Dennysville, Maine. The winter of 1951 was spent by Mr. Stoddard in carefully searching the literature covering eastern Maine and New Brunswick. During this period, we familiarized ourselves with the terrain, and the salient features. More than three hundred sites have been recorded. With this knowledge we shall be the better able to understand some of

the problems which must inevitably be raised in attempting to interpret aboriginal occupations.

During the summer of 1951, operations, again under Mr. and Mrs. Theodore L. Stoddard, Jr., centered on the shores of Cobscook Bay and Passamaquoddy Bay. It seemed advisable to gather all the information possible concerning Indian occupation in this region, particularly since Dr. Isaac W. Kingsbury, a retired physician who summers in Perry, and Mr. John Knapton, a retired engineer, now resident in Edmunds, had profered assistance. Both men have a fund of knowledge concerning the natural history of Cobscook Bay, and, in particular, concerning Indian sites. Both men have been extremely helpful, as has Mr. Keith Kilby, of Dennysville, Maine. It would not be proper to discuss operations in the area without acknowledging our indebtedness to them. Furthermore, Dr. Kingsbury has presented to the Foundation his own personal collection from a site on Mincher's Point in which the Survey was interested, while Mr. Knapton has presented his collection from the site at Dennysville. Both collections are of the greatest value since they add to the somewhat meager list of specimens gathered by our limited personnel. They can be tied to our own documented specimens.

In spite of frequent spells of rain and fog which often interrupted work or prohibited it for days at a stretch, Mr. and Mrs. Stoddard visited more than 75 sites on the shores of Passamaquoddy and Cobscook Bays--some for a third time.

Of these, forty were examined critically and eight were deemed worthy of intensive excavation. It is evident that there are two classes of sites in the area. The first, and seemingly older, is comprised of those sites at which there is no large heap of shells or other refuse to mark the dump area. No adequate explanation of this fact has yet been adduced, although it seems likely that because of their food habits those who dwelt at these places made no use of shell-fish. Two or three of these sites seem to be in locations which would only be habitable if sea level were several feet lower than it is at present. Until further examination and correlation of data can be made, it will not be possible to say definitely that apparent inundation of these sites is definitely due to a rise in sea level. An additional factor bearing on the age of these sites is to be found in the assemblage of tools, which is significant in that it lacks totally or in appreciable numbers small projectile points suitable for arrows. Absence of smaller sizes of projectiles was also noted in the deeper, and therefor older, levels at the sites at Ellsworth Falls dug by Mr. Byers and Mr. Hadlock in 1947-50.

The second class of sites is made up of those at which there are, or were, large heaps of shells and other refuse. Such sites seem to be characterized by an assemblage of tools which includes arrowpoints. In many instances there are fragments of pottery in the middens. This pottery frequently shows similarities to that from the upper levels at Ellsworth Falls, and in some cases appears to bear a late

development of the decorative style found on fragments at Ellsworth Falls.

It is evident that these two classes of sites record two different periods of occupation: the first, by a hunting, fishing people who ate no shell-fish; the second, by a hunting and fishing people who ate and probably dried large numbers of clams. Evidence for such a succession of occupations has been found farther westward in Maine. We have already noted that appreciable rise in sea level appears to have drowned some of the sites of the earlier group. It is also quite possible that there has been a rise in sea level since sites of the second, or later, group were occupied, for many have been badly eroded by the sea. In certain cases there is documentary or other evidence to indicate that there has been erosion of the shoreline by as much as twenty or twenty-five feet within the life of one individual. This information will have bearing on the study of world-wide changes in sea level which are now under way, and may, in turn, be interpreted by the results of such studies.

Because of coastal erosion, there is no large site on the shores of Cobscook Bay which is sufficiently promising to justify a full season's work. All have been so badly eroded that only fragmentary data could be hoped for, and this has in large part been accomplished by sampling.

During August, Mr. and Mrs. Stoddard concentrated their attention on Passamaquoddy Bay, in New Brunswick. There are references in the literature to excavations in a shell heap at Bocabec, and on Oak Bay, to the westward. Because

both accounts refer to rather significant stratigraphic features in the heaps, it was felt that both sites should be visited and tested. Heavy rains in August made it impossible to work steadily, and toward the end of the month the ground became so wet that it was useless to attempt further excavation.

In spite of the rain it was possible to visit a number of sites, and to locate several unrecorded ones, some of sufficient size to warrant an extensive program of excavation. Already it seems likely that we shall soon be able tentatively to place the principal sites in a sequence according to their period of occupation. From the small collections gathered so far, it is evident that in shapes of implements, in styles of pottery, and in frequency of occurrence of tools there are differences between the archaeological material from the Cobscook-Passamaquoddy region and analogous forms found in the vicinity of Penobscot Bay. After a sample of sufficient size has been gathered it should be possible to determine whether there is a significant difference between the assemblages of tools in the two areas. Such differences might be expected to reflect differences in habits of hunting and fishing, differences in game, or differences in traditional ways of doing things consistent with differences in tribal background.

Because we know very little concerning the archaeology of New Hampshire and Vermont, and because such knowledge is of great importance in interpreting similarities between

traits observed in Maine and in New York state, it was decided to add another party to the Northeastern Archaeological Survey. Mr. Howard Sargent, of George's Mills, New Hampshire, a graduate of Yale, and former graduate student at the University of Michigan, was eager to undertake a survey of New Hampshire. Accordingly, the Foundation paid his expenses during the summer, and will receive not only his collections, but also his notes and records.

Mr. Sargent, accompanied by his wife, started in extreme northern New Hampshire, and worked south. He found no evidence of any settled occupation in the far northern part of the state. He did find some evidence that people had passed through, either in hunting, or traveling. At the head of the Androscoggin, near Errol, and on the shores of Umbagog Lake and the Rangely Lakes they did find evidence of settlements. There were traces of other sites, farther downstream, near Milan and Berlin. Unfortunately, these sites have either been destroyed by flooding, building, or by indescriminate digging, so that they are useless for purposes of excavation. However, a collection was obtained from the point of land known as Moll's Rock on the west shore of Umbagog Lake. Formerly, the Brown Paper Company maintained a lumber camp there. As a result of this, and later gardening or digging for worms, the humus and brown loam have been turned over rather completely. A few things were missed by diggers. What is even more important is that below this layer there were implements which had not been disturbed. Although parallel forms are found in both

levels, pottery was found only in the upper level. Here again the forms and the sequence from level to level parallel those found at the Ellsworth Falls sites, but here the resemblance lies in the upper levels at Ellsworth Falls.

After concluding the testing at Moll's Rock, accomplished through the willing assistance of members of the New Hampshire Archaeological Society, Mr. and Mrs. Sargent transferred their attention once again to the Connecticut River. No evidence of Indian activity was found north of Colebrook. Between Colebrook and Lancaster there are only scattered implements found in stream beds, or plowed up in fields. No camp or village could be found. Between Lancaster and Haverhill, New Hampshire, there were scattered traces, but a heavy overburden of silt carried by floods may have buried sites on the more promising locations. Not far from Lyme, a site was located at some distance from the river. It was on high ground, with a very small spring-fed brook as its water supply. The situation is in itself so strikingly different from that of most village sites that it would almost appear as if the occupants had been eager to avoid detection Digging at this location uncovered remains of a type not previously found. Their closest resemblance is to remains from protohistoric sites of the Mohawk Iroquois, of New York state. If further work here should uncover sufficient evidence to mark this definitely as a protohistoric Mohawk site, it would be of the utmost importance. It is known that in early historic times the Mohawk raided Fort Pentagoet now Castine, and the Penobscot villages near Oldtown, but it

has been assumed that the Mohawk made the trip by way of Lake Champlain and the St. Lawrence valley. If the site is not a true Mohawk camp, it marks the eastward limit of their cultural influence in this region.

With one or two exceptions, the territory immediately surrounding the White Mountains can be disregarded, and it is assumed that there were no permanent villages or camps between the region in which lakes Winnipisaukee and Ossippee lie, on the south, and Lake Umbagog, on the north, or between Haverhill and Lyme on the west, and Gorham and Milan on the east.

From a few sites in the lake region there are collections of documented specimens. These are similar in many ways to the collections from Essex County, Massachusetts, gathered by Mr. Bullen for the Foundation, and some may even be handiwork of the same people.

Certain parallels can thus be observed between sequences in implements, and in the assemblages of those implements, from sites as far apart as Passamaquoddy Bay and the headwaters of the Androscoggin. It is possible that remains of this character were left by a people who were hunters and fishermen of the northern forests, and who in the course of time learned the art of making pottery.

In summary, then, we now believe that we have evidence of an early occupation of northern New England at a relatively early time, to judge from the lowest remains at Ellsworth Falls. There is evidence of a more wide-spread occupation in somewhat later times in the long, straight-

stemmed spears, heavy scrapers, and large knives which are found not only in the Ellsworth sites, but also in sites around Passamaquoddy and Cobscook Bays, and apparently in the lower levels of some of the shell heaps along the coast of Maine. Forms of stone implements which are strikingly similar are found throughout the eastern part of the country, from the Mississippi drainage to the southern Appalachians, usually under circumstances which indicate that they are of some antiquity. It thus seems likely that the camp sites without shells are remains left by a group of hunters and fishermen who overspread most of the eastern United States, and formed the foundation on which later cultures were built.

In time, the bow and arrow were introduced; shortly afterwards pottery of a rather heavy and coarse type came into use. At about this time foundations for cultural divisions of New England appear to have been strengthened. There are observable regional differences in forms and assemblages of stone implements in early times. In later times people of eastern Maine and New Brunswick favored certain styles of pottery vessels and certain decorative motifs which were impressed into the moist clay. These are quite distinct from those in vogue in southeastern Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Long Island. Southwestern Maine, southeastern New Hampshire, and northeastern Massachusetts appear to be an intermediate area, in which a mixture of traits from the two adjacent provinces

is found. Although eastern Maine and New Brunswick have many traits in common with New York at the time when pottery first came into common use, the eastern area appears not to have been affected by later cultural contacts, perhaps because it was not suitable for the extensive agriculture practiced by the later and more highly cultured people of New York state.

It will thus be seen that we are making haste slowly toward a proper understanding of the aboriginal occupation of the Northeast. While we have been able to sketch in the outline, there is much detailed work still to be accomplished. Further work in eastern Maine and New Brunswick, as well as in New Hampshire and Vermont will be required before the story is complete.

It is gratifying to note that the work being carried on by Mr. Elmer Harp, of Dartmouth College, coordinates well with our work, and that both programs supplement one another. Mr. Harp has been working for a number of years along the Connecticut valley, and most recently in Newfoundland and adjacent Labrador. Some of his material from Newfoundland is quite comparable to that which we have collected in Maine and New Brunswick--a condition that gives evidence of the extent of the spread of the hunting-fishing culture of the forested country.

A small amount of time has been spent on southern New England. Although other duties have interferred with work on the report of excavations at Titicut, and the report on

the survey of the Alaska Highway conducted by Mr. Johnson and Dr. Hugh M. Raup, of Harvard University, some time has been devoted to these studies, and the final form of the latter report has been outlined. Mr. William Eldridge and Mr. Joseph Vacaro, members of the Northeastern group of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society discovered near Ipswich a Folsom type point associated with a type of stone industry not previously reported from New England. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Byers visited the site of the find, near Bull Brook, and discovered it to be so badly eroded that there was little possibility that excavation would prove rewarding. Because of the nature of the find, Mr. Johnson has helped the discoverers to prepare a report which will be published in the Bulletin of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society under their names.

Discovery of what is probably the first water wheel to be built in North America, at the old Saugus Iron Works, presented a problem in preservation to Mr. Roland W. Robbins who is restoring the iron works under the auspices of the Iron and Steel Institute. Mr. Robbins discussed the problem with Mr. Johnson, and at the latter's suggestion, with Mr. Elso Barghoorn, of Harvard University. Mr. Barghoorn has been successful in working out a practical process, and the major portion of a late 17th century waterwheel has been preserved. The original wheel will be on exhibition, and a restoration of the wheel will be put in operation.

Mr. Johnson has also been consulting with Mr. Robbins

and the architects concerning other problems--among them an apparent rise in sea level by more than two feet since the iron works was built. In order that a faithful and accurate restoration of the wharf and other works along the shore may be made, it will be necessary to discover by exactly how much sea level has risen.

Mr. Johnson's experience in assembling data from various scientific fields, and especially in connection with changes of sea level has resulted in considerable correspondence with other persons who face similar problems. Latest in this class is a discussion of problems faced by Dr. S.K. Lothrop, of the Peabody Museum of Harvard, who has excavated an important site on the edge of the Canal Zone, in Panama. There he found a number of levels of occupation which could be related to changes in sea level going back for a period of perhaps 4,000 years. Mr. Johnson has discussed the problem with Dr. Lothrop, and with a number of geologists, and has criticized Lothrop's manuscript. At the moment there is no clear solution, but it is hoped that collaboration among geologists and archaeologists will produce significant information which may well contribute to our knowledge of migrations between North and South America.

Work in the Museum has been progressing steadily. Mr. Byers has been attempting to analize the collections from the Nevin shell heap, in Blue Hill, Maine. Numerous interruptions have prevented much progress on this score. With Miss Sheehy's help, current collections have been completely

catalogued, and considerable progress has been made on the job of cataloguing old collections and sorting and storing material left over after the sorting was done when we remodelled in 1938. There remain several cupboards full of such collections, but we are making progress.

Additional labels are slowly being installed in exhibition cases, and we are making progress toward the time when a visitor may understand our exhibitions without first taking a course in archaeology. Much work remains to be done on this score, but because of our limited personnel it will be some time before it is completed.

We are slowly amassing a collection of colored slides showing not only various digs, but also specimens in our collections and pertinent specimens from other museums. Miss Sheehy has recently been engaged in binding and preparing them. We shall soon have several thousand slides and are now faced with the problem of storing them in safe and accessible cabinets.

Mr. Johnson has completed a number of manuscripts for publication. He again prepared the annual review of archaeological field work in America for publication by the Archaeological Institute of America in the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY. This is much appreciated by people who are not specialists in the American field as a most useful summary of all field work. An article entitled "The Inter-Agency Archaeological Salvage Program in the United States" was published in the 1951 Spring Issue of ARCHAEOLOGY, a jes

specialized publication of the Archaeological Institute of America. He assembled material from various authors for inclusion in RADIOCARBON DATING, prepared the introductory chapter, and was co-author of the concluding chapter of this volume, published as Memoir Number 8, of the Society for American Archaeology. In addition to the introduction and conclusion, the memoir comprises eleven articles discussing the contribution and significance of the radiocarbon method of dating to a number of archaeological problems. A fourth manuscript, tentatively titled "The Significance of the Dates to Archaeology and Geology" has been accepted by the University of Chicago Press for inclusion in a book describing all the details relative to the radiocarbon method of dating, by Dr. W.F. Libby, of the University of Chicago who perfected the technique.

We previously had occasion to call attention to the work of the Committee for the Recovery of Archaeological Remains, a body which in 1945 grew out of the Planning Committee of the Society for American Archaeology, set up to make a survey of archaeological projects carried on under the WPA and PWA, and prepare for orderly completion of a similar program in the face of pressing need. The Committee for the Recovery of Archaeological Remains has presented to Congress and to the various interested Federal Agencies, recommendations concerning archaeological and other scientific work which should be carried out before river vallies were flooded by Federal multi-purpose dams. In the years since

its formation, the Committee has maintained a constant check on the administrative and scientific work of the agencies which have surveyed or excavated in 236 reservoir areas located in 25 states. Somewhat more than 3,000 archaeological sites have been found and recorded in this way; more than 75% of these have thus become known to science for the first time. During the past two years, the program has progressed to the point where extensive excavations have been possible, and 575 of the sites have been recommended for full scale investigation. During the past year approximately $200,000 was spent on the excavation of slightly less than 20 sites. The advice of the Committee has aided in securing information that has completely revised previous ideas concerning the prehistory of large sections of the country. Mr. Johnson has been an active member of this committee, and its Secretary, ever since its inception.

It should be remarked at this time that the work of this committee has gained recognition not only in some government circles, but also in the international field. The Division of International Relations of the Department of the Interior, UNESCO, and the Technical Cooperation Administration presented to the Committee a number of problems involved in the broad field of international relations. In brief, certain of the countries joined together in UNESCO, and countries which are requesting technical aid from the United States, have become aware of the threat to the large body of

archaeologically important material which is posed by development of power, reclamation, and irrigation projects. In foreign countries, archaeological material is considered to be a national heritage of some importance, and is treated much more seriously than it is in the United States. The various agencies concerned have asked the Committee for advice concerning the development in foreign countries of salvage programs similar to that now in operation here. This new task is faced with interest, but with a full recognition of what is entailed.

Mr. Johnson continues as Executive Secretary of the American Anthropological Association. When he assumed this office in 1949, there was no adequate program for operating the business office of the Association, or for the administration of its affairs. Mr. Johnson has developed the business office so that an orderly system now prevails, and has aided in developing an efficient administrative office. Furthermore, he has made progress in expanding the number of jobs open to anthropologists, and in drawing to the attention of people in both Government and Industry the fact that persons with anthropological training can be useful to them in many ways.

If only indirectly, the Foundation plays an important part in these developments in the anthropological field through Mr. Johnson's active participation.

Mr. Byers has represented the Foundation at the annual meetings of the Society for American Archaeology, in Evans-

ton, Illinois, May 11-12, and of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, in Philadelphia, December 27-30. He also participated in the Southeastern Archaeological Conference, in Gainesville, Florida, November 1, 2, and 3. He was invited to speak at the annual meeting of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society, in Springfield, October 13, and at the annual meeting of the New Hampshire Archaeological Society, at Exeter, October 20. He addressed the Men's Club of the South Church, Andover, and guests from other churches in the vicinity, on November 28th, on the aims of archaeology and the program of the Foundation

Although we had planned to issue a preliminary report of the Northeastern Archaeological Survey, it was finally decided against such a move at this time since there seemed to be as yet nothing tangible to publish. At a time when costs of printing are so great, it seems ill-advised to spend money on an article of ephemeral value.

During the year we have accessioned and catalogued four lots of specimens, totalling 985 specimen numbers. Of these, one lot was a collection made in the vicinity of Lowell approximately fifty years ago, a second consisted of specimens brought back from the Yukon in 1948 by Mr. Johnson, a third was the Rogers collection of 1950, from Quebec, which we had not catalogued last year, and the fourth lot represented the collection gathered by Mr. and Mrs. Stoddard in the course of the summer's field work.

Our library continues to grow through the steady addition of periodicals and exchanges, as well as by the purchase of

books. We have accessioned 45 titles during the year. Mrs. Dorothy Bloom has again come over from the Oliver Wendell Holmes library to supervise our library, seeing that everything is catalogued and kept in proper order. We are deeply indebted to Dr. Darling, Miss Eades, and to Mrs. Bloom for this expression of interest in our library. Because of it, we are now abreast of current additions, our binding is slowly catching up, and the Union Catalogue, in the Oliver Wendell Holmes Library now includes an up-to-date listing of our books. Because we did not dispose of all the duplicate books and periodicals which were advertised in 1936, and because we have slowly accumulated more, we felt that it was time to rid our attic of what remains. After discussing the matter with Miss Eades, we have called in the buyer from Goodspeed's Bookshop, who feels confident that the greater part of the lot can be moved to advantage.

Plans for the coming year are naturally dependent on world affairs. If conditions permit, we expect to continue with the program of the Northeastern Archaeological Survey, not only in New Brunswick, but also in New Hampshire if that is possible. No other field work is contemplated.

In spite of earlier predictions that we should have to cut down our activities, and perhaps in part because of somewhat restricted field work as a result of this warning, there was an excess of income over expenditure amounting to $7,099.93 which was transferred to our reserve fund. This reserve is being accumulated in order to provide for larger

field parties when appropriate sites are found, and to enable us to instal a new and modern exhibition in our New England room with the information that has been gathered. We look forward to doing this in the not too distant future.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas S. Byers

Douglas S. Byers, Director